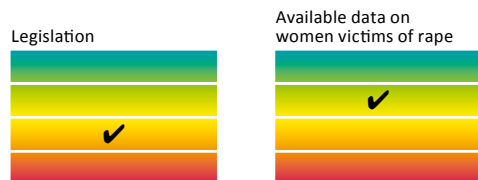


NATIONAL ANALYSIS

Latvia



Expert

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Legislation

Rape and sexual assault are criminal offences under Latvian law. Marital rape is not criminalised in Latvia as a separate offence. In 2004, the CEDAW Committee urged Latvia to criminalise marital rape as a separate offence, prosecute offenders and provide data on this form of domestic violence in its next periodic report.

There is no specific criminal offence for intimate partner violence (IPV). IPV can only be prosecuted under a range of criminal law provisions (e.g. offences against the person). IPV is referred to as domestic violence. There is no official definition by the government neither on IPV nor domestic violence but a definition used for concrete planning documents such as the Programme for the Reduction of Domestic Violence 2008-2011 defines domestic violence as a violent offence (physical, sexual or emotional) between adult persons living together.

Sexual harassment is only criminalised if it takes place in the workplace (under the labour law). Individual victims of violations of labour rights can submit complaints at the State Labour Inspectorate and Ombudsman Office.

Additional comments

Stalking is not legally defined in Latvian law. Protection orders came into force in 2005 but data shows that they are not used. In the cases where the orders are applied, no violations are registered.

Latvia has neither signed nor ratified the Istanbul Convention.

Victim support is primarily provided by non-governmental organisations. State funding is only allocated for child rehabilitation services. Social rehabilitation of children who have suffered from violence (up to age 18) has been legally established since 2000. State-financed services for child victims of violence are provided at their residence (10 consultations by a psychologist, psychotherapist or social worker) or at an institution (up to 60 days). Since 2008 a relative of a child has been allowed to accompany the child and this is covered by the state.

Available data on women victims of rape

The Information Centre of the Ministry of the Interior and Court Administration produces annual statistics relating to criminal law codes. The published data is not separated by gender but gendered data is input into the central statistical agency. In addition, when other institutions request a gendered perspective they can produce such a report from the data available. Administrative data collected by the police, prosecution and health authorities includes questions on the relationship between a victim and an offender. So theoretically, it would be possible to produce such statistics on victims of rape and sexual assaults. For domestic violence we do not have data because there is no definition on that and it is not defined as a specific offence. www.ic.iem.gov.lv/sites/default/files/2012_krim_stat_0.xls

The Central Statistics Agency is planning to publish a report on **Women and Men in Latvia** in 2013 (with data for 2012). The latest edition available in paper form is from 2008 and gives data on rape and women victim of rape and sexual assault.



Useful Contacts

There are no women's shelters for female victims of violence in Latvia.

All helplines for adults and children cover sexual violence as well and medical assistance is provided by hospitals. Hospitals do have social workers in place who are organising the support services for victims.

NGO Skalbes (24h hotline run by trained specialists)

Kungu Street 34, Rīga

Phone : +371 6 7222922

E-mail: skalbes@skalbes.lv

www.skalbes.lv

NGO Shelter Safe House (in Latvian Patvērums Drošā māja)

Lacplesa street 29 - 3, Riga

Phone: +371 67898343

Mob. phone: +371 28612120

Email: drosa.maja@apollo.lv

www.patverums-dm.lv

NGO Marta

Matīsa Street 49 - 3, Rīga, LV-1009, Latvia

Phone: +371 67378539,

Email: centrs@marta.lv

www.marta.lv

